

processable on a parallel basis in a drawing command block of a string of drawing commands not processable on a parallel basis. These blocks are passed to a drawing server. The drawing server executes the drawing command string while judging whether to process the block on a parallel or sequential basis with respect to each of the divided drawing command string blocks.

As to claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 9, the office action cites column 7, lines 57-67 and column 8, lines 1-42 of Nakamura et al. as allegedly teaching a multi-thread command processing system that utilizes a reservation station, arbiter and a command processing engine that receives a command thread from the arbiter and performs a processing command from the first command thread and thereupon updates the first command thread in the reservation station. The office action alleges that steps 710 and 702 in FIG. 9 allegedly teach a command processing engine that updates a first command thread in the reservation station as claimed. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portion of the Nakamura system merely teaches that if the end of a block of sequential instructions is not reached then the process merely executes the next command (see for example block 702 and the arrow shown in FIG. 9). The mere execution of another sequential command is not updating a command thread. There is no updating of a command thread as claimed.

For example, Applicants note in paragraph 23 and elsewhere that the claimed multi-thread command processing system or method, among other things, provides in one example, a status update for a command to the command thread which is not taught or suggested by Nakamura. In one example a thread is returned to the reservation station at a same storage location with its status updated, once all possible sequential instructions have been executed. No update of a command thread in the reservation station is provided by Nakamura but merely an execution of another command in a sequential command stream. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter.

Claims 8 and 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Airey et al. Airey is directed to a display system having floating point rasterization and floating point frame buffering. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration as it appears that the Airey reference may have been misapprehended. The office action alleges that the display list 133 in Airey is the claimed first reservation station having a plurality of first command threads stored therein and a second reservation station having a plurality of graphic command threads stored therein. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portion does not appear to teach such structure as the display list 133 described does not teach that there are a plurality of command threads in a first reservation station and a plurality of graphic command threads in a second reservation station. To the contrary, it appears that a conventional display list is employed in the Airey reference. Accordingly, if the rejection is maintained, Applicants respectfully request a showing by column and line number of where the Airey reference teaches the plurality of first command threads being stored in a first reservation station and a plurality of graphic command threads stored in a second reservation station as it does not appear that Airey teaches this structure.

In addition, it is alleged that the evaluators 134 correspond to the claimed arbiter that is coupled to the first reservation station and second reservation station and that a selected command thread is retrieved from one of the plurality of command threads. However, as noted in Airey (see column 6, lines 49-56), the evaluators 134 merely derive the coordinates or vertices that are used to describe points, lines and polygons. There is no arbiter coupled to multiple reservation stations each containing a plurality of command threads that retrieves a selected command thread from one of the plurality of command threads. In fact, the evaluators do not appear to retrieve any selected command thread from any plurality of command threads as

required by the claim. Accordingly, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The dependent claims add additional novel and non-obvious subject matter and are also allowable at least as depending from an allowable base claim.

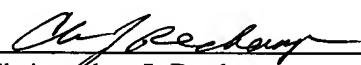
Claims 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura. Applicants respectfully submit that the claim is allowable at least as depending upon an allowable base claim.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Wyatt et al. Claim 3 is also believed to be allowable at least as depending upon an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below-listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/5/06

By: 
Christopher J. Reckamp
Reg. No. 34,414

Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C.
222 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 609-7500
FAX: (312) 609-5005